

Claims

1. A separation frequency detector circuit for a radar level gauge comprising:
a first circuit element which is arranged to receive a first clock frequency and a second
5 clock frequency, said first circuit element being arranged such that an instantaneous
value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said
first circuit element once each period of said second clock frequency;
wherein a second circuit element is arranged such that a predetermined value will be
transferred to and held at an output Q of said second circuit element triggered by said
10 output Q of said first circuit element, and
said second circuit element further being arranged to clear said predetermined value
from said output Q of said second circuit element a predetermined time period after
being triggered, whereby
said output Q of said second circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal
15 comprising information relating to the separation frequency between said first and
second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

2. The circuit (1) of claim 1,
wherein a third circuit element is arranged such that a predetermined value will be
20 transferred to and held at an inverted output /Q of said third circuit element triggered by
an inverted output /Q of said first circuit element, and
said third circuit element further being arranged to clear said predetermined value from
said inverted output /Q of said third circuit element a predetermined time period after
being triggered, whereby
25 said inverted output /Q of said third circuit element is arranged to provide an output
signal comprising information relating to the separation frequency between said first and
second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

3. The circuit (1) of claim 2,
30 wherein a fourth circuit element is arranged such that a value of an inverted output /Q of
said second circuit element will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said fourth
circuit element, and
said fourth circuit element further being arranged to clear said value triggered by an
inverted output /Q from said third circuit element, whereby
35 said output Q of said fourth circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal
essentially corresponding to the separation frequency between said first and second clock
frequencies of said radar level gauge.

4. The circuit (1) of any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein a fifth circuit element is arranged to receive said first clock frequency, said fifth circuit element being arranged such that an instantaneous value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said fifth circuit element once each period of said output Q of said second circuit element, whereby

- 5 said output Q of said fifth circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal comprising information relating to the phase of said separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

5. The circuit (1) of claim 3,

- 10 wherein a sixth circuit element is arranged to receive said first clock frequency, said sixth circuit element being arranged such that an instantaneous value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said sixth circuit element once each period of said output Q of said fourth circuit element, whereby
 15 said output Q of said sixth circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal comprising information relating to the phase of said separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

6. A method for detection of a separation frequency in a radar level gauge said method comprising the steps of:

- 20 arranging a first circuit element to receive a first clock frequency and a second clock frequency,
 arranging said first circuit element such that an instantaneous value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said first circuit element once each period of said second clock frequency;
 25 arranging a second circuit element such that a predetermined value will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said second circuit element triggered by said output Q of said first circuit element, and
 arranging said second circuit element to clear said predetermined value from said output Q of said second circuit element a predetermined time period after being triggered, and
 30 detecting at said output Q of said second circuit element an output signal comprising information relating to the separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of;

- 35 arranging a third circuit element such that a predetermined value will be transferred to and held at an inverted output /Q of said third circuit element triggered by an inverted output /Q of said first circuit element, and
 arranging said third circuit element to clear said predetermined value from said inverted output /Q of said third circuit element a predetermined time period after being triggered,

and

detecting at said inverted output /Q of said third circuit element an output signal comprising information relating to the separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of;
arranging a fourth circuit element such that a value of an inverted output /Q from said second circuit element will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said fourth circuit element, and

10 arranging said fourth circuit element to clear said value triggered by an inverted output /Q from said third circuit element, and
detecting at said output Q of said fourth circuit element an output signal essentially corresponding to the separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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9. The method of any one of claims 6 to 8 further comprising the steps of;
arranging a fifth circuit element to receive said first clock frequency,
arranging said fifth circuit element such that an instantaneous value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said fifth circuit element once
20 each period of said output Q of said second circuit element, and
detecting at said output Q of said fifth circuit element an output signal comprising information relating to the phase of said separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of;
arranging a sixth circuit element to receive said first clock frequency,
arranging said sixth circuit element such that an instantaneous value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said sixth circuit element once
each period of said output Q of said fourth circuit element, and
30 detecting at said output Q of said sixth circuit element an output signal comprising information relating to the phase of said separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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11. A radar level gauge arranged to use microwaves for determining a level of a surface of a product stored in a container, said radar level gauge comprising:
an antenna suitable for transmitting microwaves towards said surface and receiving microwaves reflected by said surface, and
a microwave transfer medium, a first end of which being coupled to said antenna, and measurement circuitry, coupled to a second end of said microwave transfer medium, and
40 said measurement circuitry is arranged to determine said level based on a relation between transmitted and received microwaves, and
said measurement circuitry further being arranged to determine said level based on an analysis of a relation between microwaves transmitted at a second clock frequency and

received microwaves sampled at a first clock frequency, and
 said measurement circuitry including for the purpose of said analysis a separation
 frequency detector for precisely determining the separation frequency between said first
 and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge,

5 wherein said separation frequency detector comprises:

a first circuit element which is arranged to receive a first clock frequency and a second
 clock frequency, said first circuit element being arranged such that an instantaneous
 value of said first clock frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said
 first circuit element once each period of said second clock frequency, and

10 a second circuit element is arranged such that a predetermined value will be transferred
 to and held at an output Q of said second circuit element triggered by said output Q of
 said first circuit element, and

said second circuit element further being arranged to clear said predetermined value
 from said output Q of said second circuit element a predetermined time period after
 15 being triggered, and

a third circuit element is arranged such that a predetermined value will be transferred to
 and held at an inverted output /Q of said third circuit element triggered by an inverted
 output /Q of said first circuit element, and

said third circuit element further being arranged to clear said predetermined value from
 20 said inverted output /Q of said third circuit element a predetermined time period after
 being triggered; and

a fourth circuit element is arranged such that a value of an inverted output /Q of said
 second circuit element will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said fourth circuit
 element, and

25 said fourth circuit element further being arranged to clear said value triggered by an
 inverted output /Q from said third circuit element, whereby
 said output Q of said fourth circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal
 essentially corresponding to the separation frequency between said first and second clock
 frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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12. The radar level gauge of claim 11,
 wherein a fifth circuit element is arranged to receive said first clock frequency, said fifth
 circuit element being arranged such that an instantaneous value of said first clock
 frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said fifth circuit element once
 35 each period of said output Q of said second circuit element, whereby
 said output Q of said fifth circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal
 comprising information relating to the phase of said separation frequency between said
 first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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13. The radar level gauge of claim 11,
 wherein a sixth circuit element is arranged to receive said first clock frequency, said sixth
 circuit element being arranged such that an instantaneous value of said first clock
 frequency will be transferred to and held at an output Q of said sixth circuit element once

each period of said output Q of said fourth circuit element, whereby said output Q of said sixth circuit element is arranged to provide an output signal comprising information relating to the phase of said separation frequency between said first and second clock frequencies of said radar level gauge.

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14. The radar level gauge of claim 11 further comprising:
power supply circuitry for providing and distributing electrical power in said radar level gauge; and

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communication circuitry for communicating information including an indication of said level of said surface, and
a two-wire interface for reception of electrical power to said power supply circuitry and for communication handled by said communication circuitry.

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15. The radar level gauge of claim 11,
wherein said power supply circuitry further comprises energy storage circuitry.